AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a first buffer to store a set of data provided by a data source; and

a second buffer to store a subset of the data, wherein (i) the set of data is to be provided for a data requestor from at least one of the first and second buffers while the subset of the data is being overwritten in corresponding locations in the ~~other~~ first buffer , (ii) the subset of the data is copied between the first and second buffers, and (iii) ~~remaining data in the set is not copied between the first and second buffers~~the second buffer is not overwritten until the subset of data is received by the data requestor.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first buffer is to receive the set of data from the data source, the subset of data is to be copied from the first buffer to the second buffer before data is overwritten in the first buffer, and the data requestor is to receive (i) the subset of data from the second buffer and (ii) the remaining data from the first buffer.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the subset of data is to be copied from the first buffer to the second buffer after the locations in the first buffer that correspond to the second buffer are filled.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein a data ready signal is to be provided after the first buffer is filled.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the data ready signal is to be provided to an arbiter unit.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a de-multiplexer to receive a block of data from the data source and to sequentially store the block of data in the first buffer, wherein the subset of data comprises a number of data blocks.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is associated with at least one of: (i) a packet network, (ii) a local area network, (iii) an Ethernet network, (iv) a switch, and (v) a router.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is associated with at least one of: (i) an application specific integrated circuit device, (ii) a field-programmable gate array device, and (iii) a custom integrated circuit.

9. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

storing in a first buffer a set of data from a data source;

copying a subset of the data from the first buffer to a second buffer ~~while other data in the set is not copied~~ and not overwriting the second buffer until the data is received by a data requestor; and

providing the subset of the data from the second buffer to ~~a~~ the data requestor and the ~~remaining~~ data from the first buffer to the data requestor while the subset of data is being overwritten in the first buffer.

10-11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 , wherein said copying is performed after the locations in the first buffer that correspond to the second buffer are filled.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

providing a data ready signal after the first buffer is filled.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the data ready signal is to be provided to an arbiter unit.

15. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

storing a first subset of data from a data source in a first buffer ~~a subset of data from a data source~~;

storing ~~remaining data~~ data of the first subset in a ~~first section of a~~ second buffer, wherein the second buffer is smaller than the first buffer. ~~wherein the subset of data and remaining data comprise a set of data~~;

providing a data ready signal to a data requestor; and

overwriting the first subset in the first buffer with a second subset of data from the data source while providing the data from the first subset stored in the first buffer and the data stored in the second buffer to the data requestor.

~~copying the subset of data from the first buffer to a second section of the second buffer without copying the remaining data; and~~

~~providing the set of data from the second buffer to a data requestor while the subset of data is being overwritten in the first buffer .~~

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following:

storing in a first buffer a set of data from a data source,

copying a subset of the data from the first buffer to a second buffer ~~while other data in the first buffer is not copied~~and not overwriting the second buffer until the data is received by a data requestor, and

providing the subset of the data from the second buffer to ~~a~~ the data requestor and the remaining data from the first buffer to the data requestor while the subset of data is being overwritten in first buffer.

18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A switch, comprising:

an Ethernet interface; and

an arbitration system, including:

a first buffer to store a set of data provided by a data source, and

a second buffer to store a subset of the data, wherein (i) the set of data is to be provided for a data requestor from at least one of the first and second buffers while the subset of the data is being overwritten in corresponding locations in the other buffer and (ii) the subset of the data is copied between the first and second buffers and ~~the remaining data in the set is never copied~~the second buffer is not overwritten until the data is received by the data requestor.

20. (original) The switch of claim 19, wherein the first buffer is to receive the set of data from the data source, the subset of data is to be copied from the first buffer to the second buffer before data is overwritten in the first buffer, and a data requestor is to receive (i) the subset of data from the second buffer and (ii) the remaining data from the first buffer.